

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are currently pending in the application with claims 1, 29-30, 32-33, and 41 being independent. Claims 3-4, 6, 8-10, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 33, and 35-40 have been amended to alter claim dependencies and/or address informalities. Claims 12, 24-25, 29, 32, and 41 have been amended to more appropriately define the present invention. Claims 26-28 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration of the application in light of the amendments contained herein and earnestly seeks timely allowance of the pending claims.

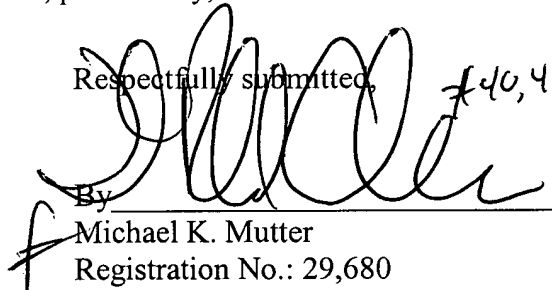
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael K. Mutter (Reg. No. 29,680) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


By _____
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